

## Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02 L-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-08 NEA-07 /066 W

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R 261511Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6027

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL TANGIER

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0713

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SC, SW, SS, AG, SP

SUBJECT: SYG'S REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON SAHARA TRIP

1. AT SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCH FEBRUARY 25, SWEDISH PERM  
REP AMBASSADOR RYDBECK SAID HE HAD FINISHED REPORT ON HIS  
SAHARA MISSION AND EXPECTED IT TO BE AVAILABLE THURSDAY  
OR FRIDAY. HE SEEMED INCLINED TO SYMPATHIZE WITH ALGERIAN  
(OR POLISARIO) POINT OF VIEW, BUT PROFESSED TO BELIEVE  
THAT IT IS NOW TOO LATE FOR ANY "EVEN APPROXIMATELY JUST  
SOLUTION BASED ON SELF-DETERMINATION" TO BE ACHIEVED.

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2. RYDBECK SAID "LAST CHANCE" FOR SELF-DETERMINATION MAY HAVE PASSED BY TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME FOWARD-LOOKING ACTION BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. TODAY, HE BELIEVED, TRADITIONAL SAHARAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE HAS BEEN "IRRETRIEVABLY" DESTROYED. JEMAA IS "COMPLETELY DISPERSED." SHAYKHS IN MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN- OCCUPIED TOWNS COMPLAIED BITTERLY AND WITH APPARENT SINCERITY THAT ALGERIANS HAD SEDUCED AND TAKEN AWAY VIRTUALLY ENTIRE YOUNGER GENERATION. EL-AYUN WAS HALF-EMPTY, WITH POOR DISTRICTS VIRTUALLY DESRETED; ONLY WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ELDERLY MEN WERE IN CITY. VILLA CISNEROS WAS VIRTUALLY DESERTED. SAMARA HAD PERHAPS ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE LEFT. RYDBECK RECONED THAT ABOUT FORTY THOUSAND PEOPLE, MORE THAN HALF OF ORIGINAL POPULATION, NOW RESIDE IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN EASTERN REGION AND IN ALGERIA. THERE WERE FEW YOUNG MEN OF MILITARY AGE AMONG THEM; THESE WERE PRESUMABLY WEARING "SOME UNIFORM OR OTHER" ELSEWHERE.

3. IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY DISRUPTION, DROUGHT HAD TAKEN TERRIBLE TOLL. FOR EXAMPLE, CAMEL POPULATION OF ONE-HELF MILLION HAD BEEN REDUCED BY DROUGHT TO LESS THAN 100,000.

4. RYDBECK SEEMED TO THINK MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN TAKE-OVER IS FAIT ACCOMPLI, NOT LIKELY TO BE REVERSED. PROBLEM FOR UN IS WHAT KIND OF GLOSS TO PUT ON THE DE FACTO SITUATION. SEVERAL TIMES HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT MOROCCANS-MAURITANIANS HAD NOT "AT LEAST COVERED THEIR ACTIONS WITH SOME KIND OF "FIG LEAF." HE DID NOT MENTION ALGERIAN MILITARY PRESENCE, NOR ACKNOWLEDGE IT WHEN REFERRED TO BY OTHERS.

5. RYDBECK SAID HE KNEW OF NO PLANS FOR A REPRISE OF HIS MISSION.  
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